


## Role of Research in Driving *What Works* Social Progress Conference

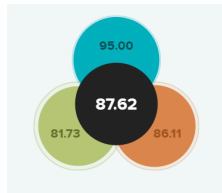

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President, University of Iceland  
April 2016



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## Social Progress Index 2015 Iceland


- Ranked 4th overall
  - Basic Human Needs (6th)
  - Opportunity (11th)
  - Foundation of Wellbeing (4th)
- Ranks highly, but ...
  - “has the most room to improve on Access to Advanced Education [under Opportunity].”

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## My talk today

- I. Expenditure on higher education
- II. University of Iceland – Short profile
- III. Research performance and impact
- IV. Rankings – THE
- V. Summary



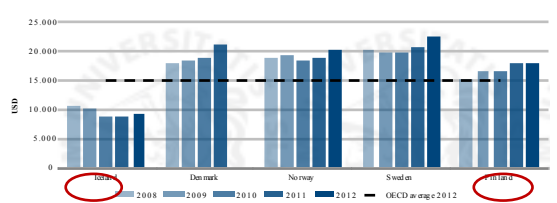
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## I. How much do we spend on higher education?




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## I. Expenditure on higher education Total expenditure per student (FTE)

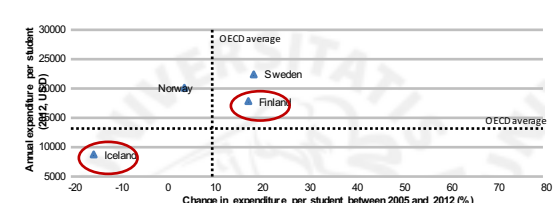


Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Iceland	~10,000	~10,000	~10,000	~10,000	~10,000
Denmark	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000
Norway	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000
Sweden	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000
Finland	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000	~18,000
OECD average 2012	~15,000				




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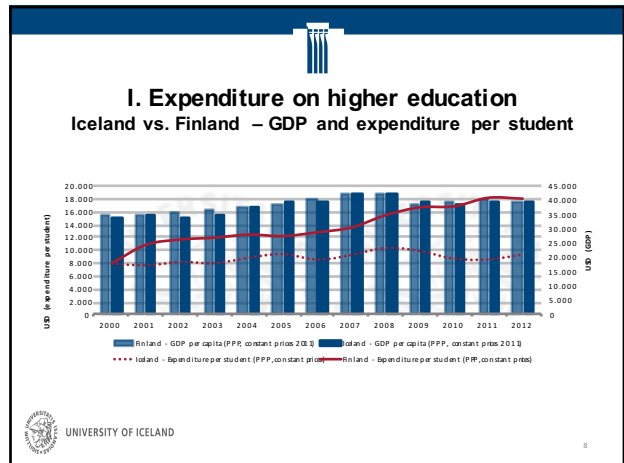
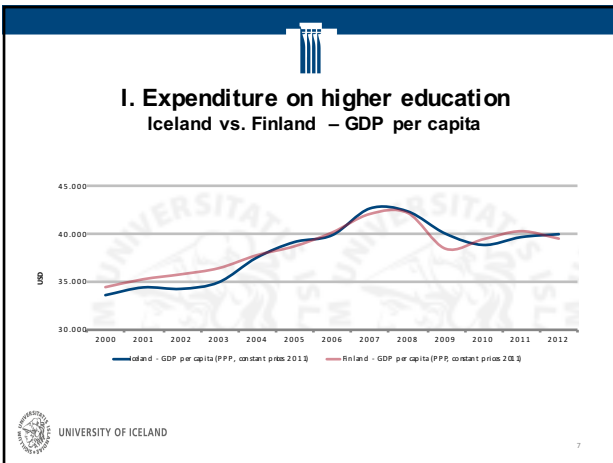
## I. Expenditure on higher education Annual expenditure per student in 2012 related to 2005



Country	Change in expenditure per student between 2005 and 2012 (%)	Annual expenditure per student (2012, US\$)
Iceland	~ -15%	~ 10,000
Finland	~ 20%	~ 15,000
Norway	~ 10%	~ 15,000
Sweden	~ 25%	~ 20,000
OECD average	~ 10,000	



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## II. University of Iceland Short profile

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## II. University of Iceland Overview

- Founded in 1911
- A comprehensive research university
- Has five Schools
  - 25 Faculties
  - Formal Interdisciplinary Programs
- 700+ academic staff
  - Including 8 Highly Cited Researchers as Full Professors (3) and Affiliated Professors (5) (Thompson Reuters 2015)
- 13.000+ students
- Ranked No. 222 by Times Higher World University Rankings in 2015/2016
  - No. 138 in Europe
  - No. 13 in the Nordic Countries
- Ranked by other lists, including
  - National Taiwan University Ranking 2015 (Field and Subject)
  - U.S. News Best Global Universities 2016 (Institution)

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## II. University of Iceland 30 year development

	1984	1994	2004	2014	30 year change
Academic staff	237	398	422	728	Tripled
Students	4.394	5.364	8.725	13.960	Tripled
Graduations	451	907	1.391	2.988	7 times
Master's Degrees	10	29	249	908	
PhD Degrees	0	0	10	82	
ISI Publications	41	195	362	870	21 times
Citations	1.186	5.607	10.098	29.459	25 times

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## II. University of Iceland Previous Policies

### Policy 2006-2011 included

- Emphasis on scientific output – double the number of ISI publications
- Enhancing international collaboration with universities and research institutions
- Quintuple the number of PhD degrees awarded

THE ranking in 2011: 275

### Policy 2011-2016 included

- Strengthening Uf's infrastructure
- Promoting excellence in research and increasing the number of high quality publications
- Integrating teaching and research with increased quality of undergraduate education

THE ranking in 2016: 222

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## II. University of Iceland Policy 2016-2021

Focus areas

- A progressive vision for teaching and learning that prepares students to participate in society and industry
- Strong research infrastructure that supports the creation of knowledge and international collaboration
- The University aims to have a wide impact and address the challenges of the 21st century
- A great place to work
- Quality culture and efficient information technology

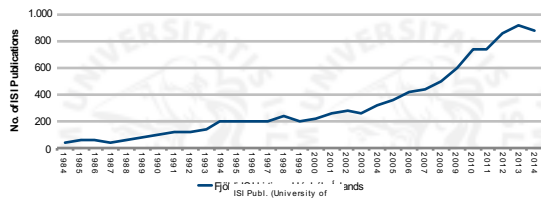


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## III. Research performance and impact

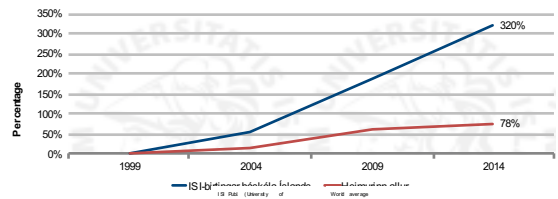


### III. Research performance and impact University of Iceland – ISI Publications



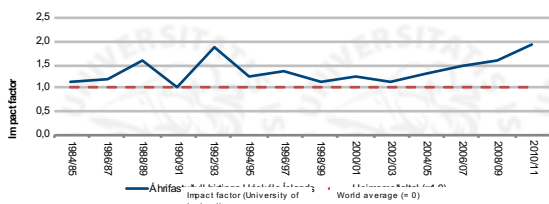
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### III. Research performance and impact University of Iceland – Relative growth of ISI Publications



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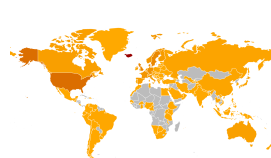
### III. Research performance and impact University of Iceland – Impact factor (ISI Publications)



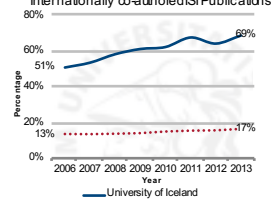
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### III. Research performance and impact University of Iceland – International collaboration

125 collaborating countries from 2012




Internationally co-authored ISI Publications



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## IV. Rankings – THE



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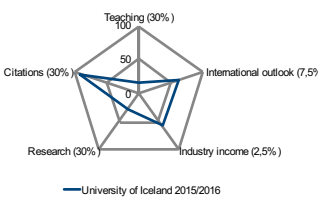
## IV. Rankings University of Iceland – Time Higher World University Rankings

- University of Iceland ranked by Times Higher World University Rankings since 2011
  - Ranked No. 275 in 2011
  - Ranked No. 222 in 2016
  - Total score risen by 40% (33 to 47)
- The performance indicators are grouped into five areas
  - Teaching (the learning environment)
  - Research (volume, income and reputation)
  - Citations (research influence)
  - International outlook (staff, students and research)
  - Industry income (knowledge transfer)
- Relative weakness
  - Subjective evaluation (reputation surveys amount to 32% of total score)
- Relative strength
  - Data (publications, citations, etc.)




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## IV. Rankings University of Iceland – Performance 2015/2016 (THE)

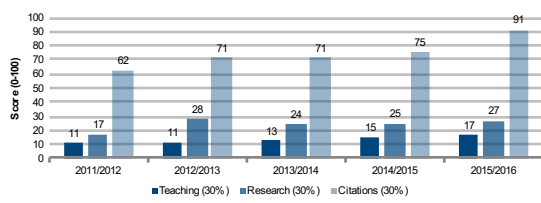


— University of Iceland 2015/2016




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## IV. Rankings University of Iceland – Key performance from 2011 (THE)




Year	Teaching (30%)	Research (30%)	Citations (30%)
2011/2012	11	17	62
2012/2013	11	28	71
2013/2014	13	24	71
2014/2015	15	25	75
2015/2016	17	27	91



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## V. Summary



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## What Works?

- Iceland ranks highly in the Social Progress Index
- Iceland has the most room to improve on Access to Advanced Education
- Iceland spends much less per student in higher education than other Nordic Countries
- Expenditure per student in higher education has actually decreased in Iceland between 2005 and 2012
- University of Iceland has grown substantially over a period of three decades
  - Publications have increased by over 20-fold
  - Impact factor is well over world average
- University of Iceland has in its Policies since 2006 placed emphasis on high impact research and international collaboration
- University of Iceland has been ranked by Times Higher World University Rankings since 2011
  - Reputation surveys will always be difficult for small countries / small institutions
  - The highest score comes from data driven indicators
  - The citation impact of the University of Iceland is very high and ranks no. 58 out of 800 by THE



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